

**GE-Pittsfield Citizen's Coordinating Council
Berkshire Community College
Susan B. Anthony Center**

**Meeting Highlights
August 4, 1999**

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

Participants

21 members of the CCC were present. There were 9 people in the audience.

Welcome and Agenda Review

The proposed agenda was reviewed and agreed upon by all. The oxbow properties were added to the agenda.

Updates on Allendale School – Consolidation and First Half Mile of River

Mike Carroll and other GE personnel provided the updates.

Allendale School

Excavation was started on July 21, 1999. 10 thousand cubic yards have been moved off site. Of this, 8,500 cubic yards are unregulated, 1500 cubic yards are regulated. He also noted the following:

- ?? Activities started at base of school and are moving away.
- ?? Air monitoring has been set up. All sites going well (sites are to measure particulate dust, not PCB's).
- ?? A large pile of material on the site is clean fill which will be used as backfill.
- ?? Groundwater pumping has commenced.
- ?? Project is on schedule; therefore, no impact to school schedule expected.

Questions and comments from CCC:

Q Aren't the material piles supposed to be covered?

A Piles are clean fill; other piles will be covered with tarps while waiting to be moved.

Consolidation Areas

Building 71

- ?? Prep work completed.
- ?? Doing tree clearing.

?? Constructed 2 temporary stockpile areas for demolition debris before it is returned to area.

Hill 78

?? Has been silt fenced and hay bailed.

?? All non regulated materials are on top of hill and covered with a tarp for now.

First Half Mile of River

?? Expecting bids to come back by August 16, 1999.

?? Will select and mobilize contractor by September 1, 1999

?? To be finalized by May 2001.

?? Restoration work contracted by Army Corps of Engineers; awards to contractor by January 2000.

?? First half mile will also be used to test models used on contaminant inflow.

Q. Why is geo-textile material now 2 pieces as opposed to 1 as originally specified?

A. Added another layer for extra protection and insurance in certain places (much discussion concerning this issue).

Residential

GE reported:

?? Sampling properties, have done 214 over last 2 years; 139 have more than 2 ppm.

?? Rate is slowing down (fewer requests).

?? Targeted 45 homes this year and have done 28 to date with 4 more in progress.

?? Will continue until done.

?? Now working in Lakewood area.

DEP reported:

?? Have been monitoring activities and pleased with work to date.

?? GE has submitted all plans on times as requested.

Definitive Economic Development Update

Tom Hickey Reported:

He distributed "Summary of Key Provisions" and discussed each provision.

Stated that he felt strongly that the plan is significantly better than the original and that this is a good plan that will enable significant economic development. It will create

700,000 to 1 million square feet of new space, and enable the leveraging of over \$45 million.

Q. Is this connected to the CD?

A. It will be attached but not technically part of it.

Q. What will happen to demolished building materials?

A. They will be stored in the consolidation area; all applicable laws will be enforced.

Oxbow Properties

Tim noted that he has heard that Activity and Use Restrictions (AUR) have been pursued by GE in this area despite their previous statements to the contrary. He said that the Oxbow areas need to be investigated because it is believed that they contain barrels of materials (as stated by former GE employees). EPA stated that they cannot regulate this until the CD is signed. The ultimate decision of whether to sign AUR's is up to the property owner. EPA noted that an AUR does not take away any requirements to clean the property.

Consent Decree

Bryan noted:

?? He hopes it will be out mid to late August but that it is difficult to predict.

?? The public comment period is likely to be 60 days but it may be longer.

?? After comment period, EPA will review all comments to decide if its in the public interest to go forward with the CD.

?? If they feel it is, the CD will be "logged" with the court.

?? The Judge then looks at EPA "Administrative Response" and decides if its in the public interest to approve (may also return for more information)>

Jane then asked the CCC how quickly they could convene once the CD is out. The idea would be to present an overview of the CD in preparation for CCC comment. Comment would begin at a meeting 2 weeks later, once people have had a chance to review material. There was general agreement to this idea. Jane also asked if a September meeting should be held if the CD was not out. A member suggested that a visit to the Alendale and consolidation areas occur instead. After much discussion including the fact that the sites are dangerous due to construction activity, it was decided that a "roadside tour" would be organized. This would enable viewing much of the site by public roads. GE and EPA agreed to arrange and coordinate through Jane and Harry.

Next meeting scheduled for September 1, 1999 at Berkshire Community College.

